

Message

From: Green, Richard [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=80B69BE2DC1642FB864B8BFB7F1B875B-GREEN, RICHARD]
Sent: 9/6/2019 9:54:49 PM
To: Martinson, Mathew [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=07993c0bb86d42e4806a6eae5184a611-Martinson,]
CC: Opalski, Dan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8b5ed6410d934bf699a008a252791a55-Opalski, Dan]
Subject: FW: Warm Springs agenda comments

Mat / Dan,

Here's the draft agenda comments I shared with Wenona.

In addition, I know we discussed this previously by phone back when you were still with IHS. But I still think we should not completely dismiss, and instead should consider revisiting the idea of running a long water line extension (~15 miles) from the closest town Madras to the Warm Springs reservation. I checked with a few counterparts in other Regions to sound them (and their states) out for what they would consider to be a laughably long water main extension. Some thought that 15 miles was a really, really long water line extension, while others felt that certain circumstances could warrant a line that long. And I recall at least a couple of DWSRF projects in the Dakotas where the line extensions were double or triple that length. Given the Tribes lack of capacity and viability as a community, at least that would set them up with a reliable and dependable source of drinking water with no further requirement to own and operate their own public water system in compliance with all applicable NPDWRs. This is exactly how states typically address failing water systems that continue to fail to produce clean and safe drinking water to their customers – they are strongly encouraged to consolidate with the closest viable water system and go out of business. Instead of spending additional funds to upgrade the Warm Spring SW treatment facility, the funds could be used to pay for the water main extension, and repair and replacement of their substandard distribution system. Depending on what sort of arrangement was made with Madras, if we could structure it as a consolidation project, that would free up additional flexibilities (i.e., grant funding) under the DWSRF.

Thanks.

Rick Green, Regional Coordinator
State Revolving Fund
Region 10 EPA
(206) 553-8504
green.richard@epa.gov
<https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf>
<https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf>

From: Green, Richard
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 11:37 AM
To: Wilson, Wenona <Wilson.Wenona@epa.gov>
Subject: Warm Springs agenda comments

Wenona,

Hi. Based on our brief hallway discussion the other day about the draft agenda for the 9/24 Warm Springs meeting, here are my thoughts:

First, we should focus on the critical needs of the community and how to help the community become more sustainable and viable. So I don't find #4 in the morning session to be very useful, unless I'm missing something.

Instead, I'd like to see more of a nuts and bolts discussion about the following topics:

Rate setting

Maybe invite a consultant to do a brief presentation on DW and WW and garbage rates, or
Invite a representative from another tribe (I forget which one, but Alyssa mentioned them by name) that recently started charging fees for DW, to see how things are working for them

Water metering

Have a consultant walk through the advantages of metering to address billing by usage, addressing water loss, finding water leaks before they turn into geysers

Acceptable levels of utility service

Have a consultant walk through a sample utility customer service plan, identifying what the utility and its customers agree is an acceptable level of service, and what that level of service will cost to deliver.

Grant/loan writing & application assistance

Have their grant writer (Bruce Irwin) explain frankly what he needs administratively to help address the myriad challenges the tribe is facing. I've emailed him a couple of times; no response. I suspect that he's simply overwhelmed.

Application completion assistance session

Let's cut to the chase and have Bruce and other tribal officials with signing authority sit down with funding agency officials and fill out applications for grants and/or loans funding, right then and there. Let's skip the talk and fix the problems! I know Oregon at least has small state and EPA-funded grant programs that the Tribe can tap immediately; they simply need to fill out the applications and discuss logistics. So I could see this session resulting in a report out for session #7 in the afternoon, i.e., HUD has an \$10m grant that they can provide to the Tribe, but they have to agree to meter as part of the project.

Thanks.

Rick Green, Regional Coordinator
State Revolving Fund
Region 10 EPA
(206) 553-8504
green.richard@epa.gov
<https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf>
<https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf>